

April 29, 1999

Karen A. McCraw
135 Fern Valley Road
Brandon, MS 39042

Commissioner
U.S. Food and Drug Administration
Dockets Management Branch Room 2-232 MAY 17 P3:17
12420 Parklawn Drive
Rockville, MD 30857

Dear Sir:

Farm Sanctuary has filed a petition with the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) to prevent the slaughter and use of downed animals for human food. The petition asserts that using downed animals in the human food supply is a violation of federal law.

Existing USDA regulations define downed animals - those unable to stand - as "**diseased**", and the law prohibits the slaughter of "**diseased**" animals for human food. Therefore, the petition argues that the current practice of slaughtering downed animals for human food must stop.

Diseases like bovine leukemia virus (BLV), bovine immunodeficiency virus (BIV), and others commonly afflict U.S. cattle. There is also evidence that cattle, pigs, and sheep in the U.S. may be afflicted with diseases like Britain's "Mad Cow Disease" (bovine spongiform encephalopathy or BSE).

Downed animals (animals so diseased or badly injured that they cannot even walk) **suffer horrendous cruelty and neglect at livestock markets across the country.** Downed animals commonly lie in alleyways, without food, water, or veterinary care, until it's convenient to take them to slaughter, usually the next day. Thousands die slowly from neglect before ever reaching the slaughterhouse.

I urge you to act upon **docket number 98P - 0151/CP1** and stop the slaughter of downed animals for the human food supply. These creatures have no voice but ours. Please help stop the downed animal trade.

I look forward to your response on this matter. Thank you in advance for your cooperation and help in this matter.

Sincerely,



Karen A. McCraw

98P-0151

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Ms. Karen A. McCraw
135 Fern Valley Rd
Brandon MS 39042-1925

THE HUMANE SOCIETY OF THE UNITED STATES

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